



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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8920A

In re Application of: DA Holman, CJ
Bruckner-Lea, FJ Brockman,
DJ Chandler

Serial No: 09/177,902

Filed: 10/23/98

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PACKED COLUMN SEPARATIONS
AND PURIFICATIONS

) Art Unit: 1724
)
) Examiner: I Cintins
)
) Paper No: 6
)
) File No: E-1658
)
) Date: July 17, 2000
)

RESPONSE

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated 04/10/00, Applicant sets forth the following amendments and remarks toward reconsideration for allowance. Applicant requests a one month extension of time and encloses a fee sheet for the fee, believed to be about \$55.

REMARKS

35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Wenglar, U.S. Patent Number 3,779,511 (the '511 patent). The Examiner has asserted that in addition to the column based separations the Applicant has shown as known in the art, claims 1-17 differ only by the "use of a rotating valve member." The Examiner then alleges that the '511 patent discloses a "valve of the type recited" and concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

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